



**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
January 7th, 2015**

**I. Call to order**

The meeting of the Maryland Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 10:30AM in the Board Room of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

**II. Roll Call**

The following Commissioners were present:

Chairman Sudhir Trivedi  
William Cox Jr.  
Carol Petzold  
Gary Simpson  
Charles Deegan  
Cathy Riley  
Michael Moore  
George Littrell, Jr.  
Elmer Horsey  
Micah Watson  
Makeda Scott  
Gregory Snook  
MDOT Staff Ian Beam  
MDOT Staff Tina Quinichette

Chairman Sudhir Trivedi called the meeting to order at 10:35AM. The December 3rd minutes were approved.

**III. Briefing**

Mr. Beam introduced Mr. Russ Yurek from State Highways Administrations Office of Maintenance. Mr. Yurek explained the specifics of the Winter Operations Overview. Everyone was given a handout duplicating Mr. Yurek's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Yurek mentioned that these operations in combination with the purchasing of new equipment, SHA is striving to be more efficient and keep the employees out on operational jobs longer.

The handout information with explanations can be accessed on the SHA site at:

[http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office\\_of\\_Planning\\_and\\_Capital\\_Programming/Plans\\_Programs\\_Reports/Documents/WinterMaintenanceSHA.pptx](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office_of_Planning_and_Capital_Programming/Plans_Programs_Reports/Documents/WinterMaintenanceSHA.pptx)

Commissioner Petzold asked about the Bay Report regarding salt impact on the bay. Mr. Yurek replied that the EPA is looking at the report and SHA is very aware of the impact of salt on the environment.

Mr. Yurek continued his presentation explaining the Emergency Operations Plans. He stated that each district will report what they have available to use and how it should be used and that is included in the plan. The plan also states that state and contractual trucks should be working on site one hour before an event. This will help any freezing precipitation not bond to pavement. They also operate on a two hour cycle getting salt, salting roads and re-loading salt. This plan is coordinated with the Maryland State Police

Commissioner Natarajan asked if citizens have the ability to track road conditions. Mr. Yurek explained that there is access in the individual counties data collection reports. They do not share the salt info.

Mr. Yurek then delved into the topic of the SHA Snow College. This internally run program trains maintenance employees to perform roadway winter operations responsibly by clearing the roads in a safe and efficient manner. All new hires are required to attend this training.

Commissioner Simpson asked if an employee is sitting in a truck but not plowing, does he get paid the same as if he was plowing, and does this apply to contractors as well? Mr Yurek answered affirmatively.

Commissioner Moore asked that if one area in Maryland has less snow than another, is the equipment transferred to areas with more snow? Mr. Yurek explained that SHA tries not to transfer equipment in that manner but it can be done if necessary. They can handle up to 1 foot of snow.

Chairman Trivedi thanked Mr. Yurek for his time and an excellent presentation.

#### **IV. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Hearing no other items of business, Chairman Sudhir Trivedi adjourned at 11:25AM until February 4, 2015 at MDOT HQ.